

MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
November 5, 2013

Commissioner Sarah Chvilicek called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

1. Roll Call.

Members present: Al Sheakley, Nathan Daniel, Janet Davis, Sarah Chvilicek, Jim Nadeau, Scott Pierson, Anne Buckley, Thomas Guinn and Ed Harney.

Board of County Commission Liaison: Kitty Jung

Staff present: Eric Crump, Deputy District Attorney Leslie Admirand, Cheryl Surface, Rosemarie Entsminger, John Keese, Jennifer Budge, Bill Whitney and Joanna Schultz

2. Public Comment

Bill von Phul, a former Parks Commissioner and current Vice President of the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway spoke about the all volunteer nonprofit that is trying to build and mountain bike trail from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake. They use existing trails and roads where they can and have approximately 65 miles of it open. Mr. von Phul also provided the Commission with a brochure on the bikeway.

Recently they worked with Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) to use their roads as they are the only roads that go upstream from Verdi. TMWA agreed if they helped them replace their dilapidated old suspension bridge across the Truckee River. The bridge cost \$450,000 to complete with a lot of major donors. One donor was from State Question 1 (SQ1) that has been under Parks and monitored by Rosemarie Entsminger. Mr. von Phul is here to present Rosemarie Entsminger with a plaque as a thank you.

Rosemarie Entsminger, Community Services Fiscal Compliance Officer, accepted on behalf of every single partner and citizen involved in these projects.

3. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of November 5, 2013.

Motion by Commissioner Nadeau to Approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of November 5, 2013. Second by Commissioner Pierson. Motion carried

4. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of May 7, June 26 and July 8, 2013.

Motion by Commissioner Buckley to Approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of May 7, June 26 and July 8, 2013. Second by Commissioner Davis. Motion carried

5. Presentation by Eagle Scout David Curtis on a project to rebuild and repair the Eagle Meadow Campfire stage.

John Keesee, Park Ranger, introduced Eagle Scout David Curtis.

David Curtis gave a presentation.

6. Presentation by Eagle Scout Isaac Artinger on a project to rebuild rotten or broken fencing around Marilyn's Pond Amphitheater.

Ranger John introduced Eagle Scout Isaac Artinger.

Isaac Artinger gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding how many man hours to complete projects, Mr. Artinger said an Eagle project requires 100 man hours but this one could take more. He is not sure of the total number but it will be two days of work.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding who will donate materials, Mr. Artinger said he hasn't gotten that far but in talking with the other two Eagle Scouts making presentations he can pick up a donation application from the Scout office. He will also be seeking a donation from Home Depot.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding start of project, Mr. Artinger said he does not have an exact date set but would like to start before Thanksgiving.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding David Curtis' cost estimate and materials, Mr. Curtis said around \$400 with donations received from Home Depot and a local construction company.

Ranger John added that on Mr. Curtis' project he looked at material that was originally used and was able to recycle some of it to save Parks money.

7. Presentation by Eagle Scout Nick Sharpe on a project to make and replace all wooden number posts along the Galena Creek Self-Guided Nature Trail.

John Keesee introduced Eagle Scout Nick Sharpe.

Nick Sharpe gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Pierson regarding will the pamphlet be redone, Mr. Sharpe said yes. Ranger Keesee added that the Great Basin Institute brought brochures up-to-date about two years ago and are available upon request.

Commissioner Jung commended the young men and added that to be an Eagle Scout is a very distinguished group. She thanked the parents of the Eagle Scouts and asked the Scouts whose parents aren't present to make sure to thank them.

Commissioner Harney added that he is an Assistant Scout Master for Troop 443 in Spanish Springs and they do have a few boys that make the rank of Eagle. This is because of the parents who help out and continuously motivate the boys. He commended all three Scouts and said these are awesome projects.

8. Presentation by Christi Cakiroglu, Executive Director of Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful.

Eric Crump, Park Operations Superintendent introduced Christi Cakiroglu of Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB). Mr. Crump said that this Commission requested information about illegal dumping and other KTMB programs.

Christi Cakiroglu gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding recycling computers, Ms. Cakiroglu said New to You Computers, off of Greg Street. This information is on the KTMB website and they do try to update as often as possible. Ms. Cakiroglu added that televisions are another recyclable item they are asked about all the time. If you have a Sony, Zenith, LG or Goldstar brand television, you can recycle for free at Waste Management through an agreement. If it is another brand it is .35 cents a pound.

Public Comment:

Bill von Phul, 2020 Breen Drive said that KTMB is an amazing organization. They are a private, nonprofit affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. In almost in every other community these organizations are staffed by City employees. They do such a great thing for this community. For example, at Red Hill, a County park, they removed over 300 tires and over 60 cubic yards of other illegally dumped trash just this past Saturday. He thanked KTMB for the service they provide the community.

9. Presentation on Draft Environmental Impact Study regarding Pyramid Way and US 395 Connection Project by Doug Malloy, Project Manager with the Regional Transportation Commission.

Jennifer Budge, Park Planner introduced Doug Malloy with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) and Brian Gant with Jacobs, a consultant on the project.

Doug Malloy and Brian Gant gave a presentation on the Pyramid Way and US 395 Connection Project.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding project limits and what has RTC learned from the Southeast connector into this, Mr. Gant said it is hard to give it a set section width because it varies so much particularly once you get to the hills. They have cuts and fills in the range of 100-120 feet. If you use a standard 6-lane freeway section with 6-8 foot inside shoulders and 10-foot outside shoulders, then it would be whatever the topography requires from that point on. Mr. Malloy said there has been a lot of public outreach on this project. There is a lot of history, but he doesn't have a lot of the information with him.

In response to Commissioner Pierson regarding a lot of negative connotation with bike lanes being created at the expense of car lanes, Mr. Malloy said since he's been with RTC they have been incorporating bike lanes into all the regional roads they newly construct. Feedback has been mostly positive. Some of the controversy is when they are converting roads and reducing them to accommodate bike lanes and other modes of transportation. They are doing more public outreach than before and hoping that will help.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding type of road, Mr. Gant said the majority would be a control access freeway like 395. The limits of this would be Eagle Canyon on the north connecting all the way to 395 ultimately with high speed type connections at 395. Those would come later once traffic warrants it. Other areas would be arterials from Eagle Canyon up to Calle de la Plata, widening of Disc Drive would stay the same as it is today and Pyramid Way, south of the connector would be widened but stay the same type as it is today.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding he visualized the road being further north, Mr. Gant said it was not taken too far north because once you start getting further away the travel time becomes longer and the facility is not used as much. There needs to be a travel time savings in order to really attract the volumes and divert traffic off the other roadways. They looked at options a little further north but those would have impacted the Red Hill property. The property deeds do not allow any other use so they had to stay south of Red Hill.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding coupled with this project are there plans to do anything with 395 North and South, Mr. Gant said there are a couple of different efforts going on. For 395 there is study underway as part of a multi-state study. NDOT has a program to do a similar environmental process/evaluation on 395 through this area in large part because of the connector but also because of existing congestion.

In response to Commissioner Jung regarding the connector north of Red Hill, Mr. Gant said North of Red Hill or further north you go there are a couple of things that happen. From a traffic standpoint it would be less attractive, less traffic and not reduce congestion. There would be an interchange at Sun Valley Blvd or just west of Sun Valley. The ultimate connection with 395 would be at Parr Blvd.

In response to Commissioner Jung regarding Dandini Blvd. being the natural choice since most traffic is currently cutting across there now, Mr. Gant said part of the attractiveness of going through the south end of Sun Valley is it is the skinniest piece of development when you look at it from an aerial point. There is not enough development to draw enough traffic to connect from north of Sun Valley all the way to Spanish Springs around Eagle Canyon.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding how the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) fits in, Mr. Malloy said it's federally funded with a large component of it being federally funded going forward. Because it is federally funded the EIS process is required. The project encompasses all the environmental impacts: archeological, wetlands, human, species etc.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding is the EIS complete, Mr. Malloy said it is in draft form and very nearly complete for public view/comment.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding is US Fish and Wildlife involved, Mr. Malloy said yes.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding BLM impact at Eagle Canyon area, Mr. Gant said all alternatives are in the existing Pyramid corridor footprint and just outside of this. They are not extending into any BLM land. Some of those footprints show up in the study area but not in the impact area of the alternatives.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding impact to animal species, Mr. Gant said species identified as potentially being threatened/endangered was the Carson Wandering Skipper. The impact footprint doesn't get into any known population of these species.

Commissioner Chvilicek asked Mr. Gant to address that this is an elevated freeway as some Commissioners may not know this. Mr. Gant said through the Pyramid corridor the Pyramid Freeway would go over the cross streets; Eagle Canyon, Delores, Lazy 5 and all the way down. The roadway would come down as much as possible to existing grade and serpentine its way down the valley. In the mountainous areas it varies quite a bit. There are locations that would be a deep cut, depress down into the mountains, and then hood a valley area and pops up into a high fill. Where possible and as much as possible it will stay at grade where they can.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding deep cuts and have they addressed geology, Mr. Gant said they've done some preliminary geotechnical analysis. There is a lot more to do and one of the main concerns is the type of geology.

Commissioner Chvilicek would like Ms. Budge to address the direct impact to the library, Lazy 5 Park and Red Hill.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding will the County put together a response for this environment impact, Ms. Budge said she has provided the Commission draft comments on behalf of the County. Commissioner comments will be incorporated and submitted as comments on the draft EIS.

In response to Commissioner Jung regarding will Spanish Springs Library be making comments, costs to the County, what will RTC pay County because of those impacts and deadline, Ms. Budge said they've kept in contact with the library, their comments are included in what she provided to the Commission. They include noise, parking and access impacts. Anything further library specific they would work with RTC. The deadline for comments is November 12th.

In response to Commissioner Jung regarding the elevated interchange at Delores Drive and what happens to the community, Mr. Malloy said there are some impacts, they would need to acquire some properties in the immediate area of Delores. From Delores to Eagle Canyon there are half interchanges and one-way frontage roads on either side of the facility. With the footprint of the road plus the frontage roads there are some properties that would have to be acquired. They would acquire them, make them whole and relocate them.

In response to Commissioner Jung regarding affect to homeowners with the freeway now being over their home and will RTC have no liability to the homeowners, Mr. Malloy said it would be 20 years before something may be built. He can't say that it will or will not affect properties in the area. The property takes are not identified until the design is to a point where they can identify the right-of-way needs.

In response to Commissioner Jung regarding takes have been identified in Sun Valley, Mr. Malloy said Sun Valley is closer to that happening as they are in the first phase, but until there is more design and a decision is made they do not know what those properties are. They also have two alternatives.

Mr. Malloy added that they would not burden the County with costs. For example impacts to the Library would not be a burden of the County. Commissioner Jung clarified that RTC would be responsible for this, Mr. Malloy said yes.

Mr. Malloy said the increased sound levels would be looked at and mitigated if required.

Public Comment:

Karen Mullen said there have been discussions about selling Sky Ranch Park. There is an interchange there and it would probably affect the park. If that is the case she hopes any mitigation money will come back to Parks. She feels any mitigation money that affects the parks should come back to the park facilities that have been impacted.

On the entry to Lazy 5 the original park design was for the entry point to be east of the ditch. The bridge design was all predicated on that because the ball fields had higher use and higher traffic than the facilities that were closer to Pyramid Highway. She said they need to take a look at the traffic analysis of the internal portion of the park as the entry point is moved.

At Lazy 5 it should be noted that they did a lead mitigation there as it was an old shooting range. They encapsulated the lead underneath the parking lots. If they are going to redesign or coordinate the parking lot or anything within the park as the entry point comes in, the lead remediation was completed and she believes it would need to be the responsibility of whatever the rearrangement is of the park.

The Wandering Skipper at Lazy 5 is located on the northeastern and eastern boundary point. If trail systems or any connectivity occurs that is where the Wandering Skipper is.

Ms. Mullen added that she was confused by how it connects into Dandini Blvd. and if it goes by the community college. If it does go by that location of Red Hill then there is County shooting facility for the Sheriff's Department. That has been a major problem with Red Hill. When it was acquired we didn't perceive it to be the fallout for the Sheriff's Department shooting range. It was supposed to be open to the public and it may impact the alignment.

Jennifer Budge said Sky Ranch Park has been identified for disposal by Washoe County. We relocated those types of facilities at Eagle Canyon Park so they would not displace any user groups. At the direction of the Board of County Commissioners they are currently working with Pyramid Urban Achievers LLC. They are doing their due diligence but it is taking a long time. Nothing is complete but if in the final EIS those are identified as being impacted for flood and storm water detention, it would use a large portion of the park property and they would disclose this to Pyramid Urban Achievers or another party they would be working with.

Ms. Budge brought a copy of the Master Plan and it does identify a new entrance to the park. They are aware that Pyramid Highway has safety issues, traffic issues and that potentially the Pyramid Highway access would no longer be available. There is another access proposed through the old Kiley property. It is shown between the baseball and soccer fields on the eastern side of the Orr ditch and there is room for flexibility for future plans.

Should the 395 project happen, Ms. Budge feels they could work with RTC and partners to provide safer access to the park. Currently we don't have the right-of-way through the property to the south of Lazy 5 to connect Lazy 5 Parkway at the lighted intersection. That

would need to be obtained but we don't have the financial resources to construct that connection. That would need to be mitigated and access to the park be maintained during construction. RTC has been a great partner and she is sure all the conditions could be met.

It is an elevated freeway and has frontage roads and shared use path. Those do encroach on the existing parking lot on the Pyramid Highway side of the library. The parking should be mitigated and could be relocated and constructed somewhere else in the park.

There could be noise impacts as well especially with the library. Parks staff will work with library staff on design considerations. RTC is at 30% design and a has long way to go.

Mr. Malloy thanked County staff for their comments and expressing concerns. Development plans don't provide the access but it should be better than it is now.

10. Discussion and recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an Exhibition Agreement (\$36,750) between Washoe County and WonderWorks Exhibits Company, Inc. and an Agreement (\$25,000) between Washoe County and Origins Museum Institute for the 2014 Spring Exhibit at the Wilbur D. May Museum entitled "Treasure: Riches, Rogues, and Relics".

Kristy Lide, Museum Curator said since 1992 every Spring the Museum has brought in large exhibits. Each year they try to make the exhibits appropriate for children and adults of all ages. With this exhibit they would like to contract with two different exhibitors; WonderWorks and Origins Museum Institute.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding 3.3 of the Agreement states "Staff will be supervised to setup the exhibit. In 4.1 it states "Staff will be responsible to provide manpower and equipment to breakdown", he is concerned about liability with no staff supervision, Ms. Lide said WonderWorks and Origins will have a representative come in with the exhibit to ensure everything is working properly. County staff unloads and loads the exhibit.

Motion by Commissioner Nadeau to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners approval of an Exhibition Agreement (\$36,750) between Washoe County and WonderWorks Exhibits Company, Inc. and an Agreement (\$25,000) between Washoe County and Origins Museum Institute for the 2014 Spring Exhibit at the Wilbur D. May Museum entitled "Treasure: Riches, Rogues, and Relics". Second by Commissioner Buckley. Motion carried.

11. Acknowledge receipt of the status report of the 2000 Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space bond (WC-1) projects; and select up to three (3) Open Space and Regional Parks Commissioners to represent Washoe County on an ad-hoc committee along with City of Reno and City of Sparks Park Commission representatives to make recommendations on future projects funded with remaining 2000 Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space bond (WC-1) funds.

Al Rogers, Division Director Projects & Programs, said we are at the point to take steps with WC-1 to complete what was started many years ago and looking at unfunded projects that were on that list. Mr. Rogers gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Jung regarding Alicia Reban sent an email with some of her concerns and wanting to be involved if community involvement is needed, Mr. Rogers said he

did receive the email as well. It is the intent to include all stakeholders through the public vetting process as well as meet with an ADHOC Committee with a staff recommendation on moving forward with the unfunded projects from the original bond. There is no intent to look for more projects and are hoping they all still meet the criteria.

In response to Commissioner Pierson regarding page 3 of report it states that the Washoe Valley bike path cannot be completed, Mr. Rogers said that is our perspective at this time. We would like to vet that through partners. It has been a challenging project, we've had multiple partners, multiple alignments, different scenarios where this could go through. It was fairly vague in the original description of the project and this would be one of the items to discuss on whether it is a viable project.

Public Comment:

Bill von Phul said that WC-1 is near and dear to his heart. He worked on the project to get this measure passed. When they were putting this together they were on the phone a lot making specific promises to voters to what they were going to get in return for their vote. Alicia Reban headed up the effort to get the bond issue passed. She is very familiar with the history and the intent of WC-1 and he would strongly urge everyone to take Alicia up on her offer of assistance. Mr. von Phul left copies of the email for Commissioners.

Commissioner Nadeau said he would like to sit on the Ad Hoc Committee.

Commissioner Buckley said she would like to be on the committee but has no time.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding is there possibility that Ms. Reban can be included in this committee, Mr. Rogers said the Ad Hoc Committee was simply identified as the sounding board and the committee has not been established. They will reach out to Ms. Reban to involve her.

Commissioner Pierson and Daniel said they would also like to sit on the Ad Hoc Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Buckley to acknowledge receipt of the status report of the 2000 Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space bond (WC-1) projects; Commissioners Nadeau, Pierson and Daniel will represent Washoe County on an Ad Hoc Committee along with City of Reno and City of Sparks Park Commission representatives to make recommendations on future projects funded with remaining 2000 Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space bond (WC-1) funds. Second by Commissioner Guinn. Motion carried.

Mr. Rogers added that City of Reno will elect two representatives at their meeting tonight and City of Sparks has elected two.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding does the nominations have to be affirmed by the Board of County Commissioners, Leslie Admirand, Deputy District Attorney said she does not believe it does but if they would like to it can be.

- 12. Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to direct Community Services Department staff to conduct the necessary due diligence for potential acquisition by Washoe County of APN 090-040-06 (67.41 acres) and APN 090-040-05 (8.83 acres) at**

Silver Lake for the Board of County Commissioners future consideration (to be funded in part by State Question One Funds and Washoe County easement proceeds).

Jennifer Budge, Park Planner said she will be going forward at the November 12th Board of County Commissioner (BCC) meeting with this same agenda item. She is here to discuss comments and possible recommendation to the BCC about these two potential acquisitions.

Washoe County owns close to 300 acres at Silver Lake. Nevada Land Trust (NLT) has acquired a significant portion of the lake as well. It has been the community's desire and vision to have a trail around Silver Lake and these two acquisitions would help make that possible. The land is primarily under water in a good year, and there is adequate space to construct a trail. In 2011 a trailhead was constructed on the very east side.

Parks is working with Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) on shared funding for this project. They have approximately \$20,000 that they can contribute from their State Question 1. It would be unrestricted without a match and they have also acquired all the surface water rights. There are no written agreements with Nevada Land Trust or NDOW at this time but would like direction from this Commission and ultimately the BCC on some due diligence on possibly acquiring this land.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding does the 8.83 acres include the pond, Ms. Budge said no, it is at the southwest corner and acquired by NLT.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding a connector route to Swan Lake, Ms. Budge said in the regional plan it shows a connecting trail from Swan Lake to Silver Lake. There are willing seller letters in the packets and they have spoken to the owners who are proponents of parks and open space. They are willing to work with us but we don't have appraisals yet.

The budget is pretty tight. The available funding may just be able to cover the acquisition so they may have to work with the property owners.

Commissioner Chvilicek added that the property owners were open to options when it was presented to the CAB. This area is very near and dear to her and the surface water is literally right under the surface even in drought years. It is an amazing migratory path and a very beautiful place.

Public Comment:

Karen Mullen said this is part of specific flight way and a unique area. Dry lakes are often looked at as dry lakes when you see them in the summer time. This is a very special pretty place and she encourages supporting this acquisition and the continued acquisition. It takes time to put together all of the pieces of the puzzle in a large area. Ms. Mullen echoed the Chair's support of this.

Motion by Commissioner Davis to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to direct Community Services Department staff to conduct the necessary due diligence for potential acquisition by Washoe County of APN 090-040-06 (67.41 acres) and APN 090-040-05 (8.83 acres) at Silver Lake for the Board of County Commissioners future consideration (to be funded in part by State Question One Funds and Washoe County easement proceeds). Second by Commissioner Pierson. Motion carried

13. Presentation on “Park of the Month” featuring the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.

Eric Crump, Park Operations Superintendent, introduced Horticulturist Bill Carlos.

Bill Carlos gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding what the two colors on visitor graph mean and where the plants come from for the Annual Plant Sale, Mr. Carlos said one was the south entrance and other one is the west entrance. The plants come from various nurseries. The bulk of the plants come from Blue Bird Nursery out of Nebraska. They come in as small plants and they transplant them with the help of Washoe County Careers and Technology students as part of their education program. We teach them how to do this and in return they allow us to use their greenhouse where they grow them out for about five weeks.

14. Parks Reports

Eric Crump, Park Operations Superintendent highlighted reports.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding the status on the Water Park, Mr. Crump said he met with contractor today to go over the final list for the project. Most of the items on the list are done. There are three items that were determined to likely have to wait till spring. None of which they anticipate will impact the opening of the facility. One is a pavement issue as most of the asphalt plants are closing or have closed. The second piece is the gluing of the playground tiles. They are trying to get a definitive answer from the manufacturer of type of temperatures they need and how long those temperatures need to be for the proper curing of the glue. Mr. Crump said 99% of the list will be complete, they anticipate, within the next two weeks.

15. Commissioner’s Comments

No Commissioner comments.

16. Public Comments

No public comment.

Adjournment

Chairman Chvilicek adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Schultz